

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09322 281736Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSF-01 /035 W

-----114110 282047Z /62

R 281525Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 9322

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR HEALTH AGREEMENT: INDIVIDUAL SPECIALISTS

VISITS (03.30)

1. DR. VIVIAN BONIUK RECENTLY VISITED THE EMB SCIOFF TO REPORT ON HER THREE WEEK PROGRAM AT THE MOSCOW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL EYE SURGERY. DR. BONIUK, WHO IS AN OPHTHAMOLOGIST, EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE COMPETENCE OF HER SOVIET COLLEAGUES. SHE STATED THAT IN MANY AREAS SOVIET EYE SURGERY IS EQUAL TO US PRACTICE. DR. BONIUK NOTED THE POSITIVE VALUE OF US-SOVIET HEALTH COOPERATION, ADDING THAT EYE DISEASE WOULD BE A FRUITFUL AREA FOR FURTHER COOPERATION. IN PARTICULAR, SHE MENTIONED INTRO-OCULAR LENS IMPLANTATION AND GLAUCOMA AS TWO AREAS WHERE THE US COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM SOVIET MEDICAL PRACTICE.

2. DR. BONIUK VISITED THE SOVIET UNION TO STUDY A SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR MYOPIA (NEAR SIGHTEDNESS) WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY DR. FEDOROV, THE DIRECTOR OF HER HOST INSTITUTE. HIS TECHNIQUE INVOLVES MAKING SEVERAL ANGULAR INCISIONS INTO THE CORNEA WHICH CAUSES IT TO SHIFT POSITION AND CHANGES THE FOCAL PROPERTIES OF THE LENS. THE RESULT IS A PARTIAL CORRECTION OF THE VISION DEFICIENCY. ALTHOUGH THIS SEEMS TO BE A GENERALLY EFFECTIVE TREATMENT, DR. BONIUK NOTED THAT IT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09322 281736Z

IS AN EXTREMELY DELICATE OPERATION. IN CONTRAST, STANDARD TREATMENT FOR MYOPIA IN THE US IS SIMPLY USE OF CONTACT LENSES. HOWEVER, CONTACT LENSES ARE ALMOST NEVER PRESCRIBED FOR MYOPIA IN THE USSR BECAUSE SOVIET CONTACT LENSES ARE OF POOR QUALITY AND SOVIET PHYSICIANS DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THEIR PATIENTS TO KEEP THEM CLEAN.

3. DR. BONIUK STATED THAT MOST OF THE SURGICAL EQUIPMENT IN HER INSTITUTE WAS AMERICAN OR GERMAN. SOVIET MADE EQUIPMENT WAS GENERALLY OF POOR QUALITY.

4. DR. BONIUK ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SOVIET PHYSICIANS. SHE COMMENTED THAT SOVIET DOCTORS SEEM TO BE MUCH MORE NARROWLY SPECIALIZED THAN THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. HER HOST INSTITUTE, FOR EXAMPLE, DEALT ONLY WITH CORNEAL PROBLEMS IN ADULTS. SHE ALSO COMMENTED THAT MANY SOVIET PHYSICIANS ARE POORLY PAID. ONE SENIOR DOCTOR IN HER INSTITUTE TOLD DR. BONIUK THAT SHE MADE ONLY 100 RUBLES A MONTH. SOME DOCTORS, HOWEVER, DO VERY WELL. THE DIRECTOR OF HER INSTITUTE REPORTEDLY EARNS UP TO 1500 RUBLES PER MONTH. MOST OF THIS INCOME IS IN THE FORM OF GIFTS "NA LEVE," PRESUMABLY IN RETURN FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ACCORDED TO PATIENTS.

5. ALTHOUGH SOVIET DOCTORS ARE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT, LIKE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE SOVIET LABOR FORCE, THEY DO NOT SEEM TO WORK VERY HARD. DR. BONIUK NOTED THAT DURING THE DIRECTOR'S ABSENCE MOST ACTIVITY AT THE INSTITUTE COMES TO A HALT, WHILE THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF PURSUE THEIR OWN PRIVATE INTERESTS OR SIMPLY REST. DR. BONIUK BELIEVES THAT THIS CASUAL ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK STEMS AS MUCH FROM THE LACK OF NON-MATERIAL INCENTIVES AS FROM THE GENERALLY LOW WAGES. THE SYSTEM OFFERS LITTLE SCOPE FOR INITIATIVE AND EVERYONE KNOWS THAT A PARTY CARD IS REQUIRED FOR ADVANCEMENT. IN SPITE OF THIS REQUIREMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 09322 281736Z

DR. BONIUK STATED THAT MOST OF THE STAFF IN HER INSTITUTE SIMPLY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PARTY.
MATLOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, AGREEMENTS, VISITS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW09322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770231-0160
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770611/aaaaajep.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48159e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2010633
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR HEALTH AGREEMENT: INDIVIDUAL SPECIALISTS VISITS (03.30)
TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, US, UR, (BONIUK, VIVIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48159e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009